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NEWS
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RECYCLE

Russia tries to woo Ukraine with money

President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday opened his wallet in the battle with the European Union over Ukraine's future

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'Pretty good chance' for a white Christmas

Statistics indicate the first two weeks of December saw precipitation levels not matched in more than a lifetime, and there's more snow on the way

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CAN'T KNOCK THE HUSTLE

CHRISTIAN BALE PULLS FROM A LONG LINEAGE OF LONG-CON ARTISTS IN LATEST FILM

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BRUINS BLANK FLAMES

Lance Bouma crashes into Matt Bartkowski of the Boston Bruins along the boards during the game in Boston on Tuesday. Story, page 27. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Puke penalty eyed for cab rides at night

'Nasty reality.'
Move aims to boost peak-hour fleet

Party-hearty passengers who spew or soil themselves inside a Calgary taxi could soon be legally on the hook to foot the cleanup bill.

Currently, a Calgary cabbie staring at a puddle of vomit or urine-soaked seats can only merely request some additional compensation from the culprit or pursue the matter in court, an arduous process that could span months and lead to little compensation.

But an amendment to the city livery bylaw is coming forward at a Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee (TLAC)

meeting Friday that would see required compensation for messy merrymakers if the driver requests such a fee.

Chief livery officer Marc Halat said the proposal is one aimed at enticing drivers to work peak bar-closing hours while offering them "equitable return if something goes sideways."

"It's a nasty reality of this business," Halat added. "I hate to see these drivers get put out of business. It happens on a weekend, it doesn't happen during the week. If it happens on a Friday night, they can be out of service for two days."

Delta Cab driver Rupinder Gill roams city streets looking for fares with a supply of plastic bags in his glove box, just in case a customer has to hurl. Even then, it's not always

enough. "Some of these guys can't even hit the bag," he said. "It happens frequently, it's a big issue."

Gill said he believes the bylaw would definitely entice more drivers to work the late-night crowds. If approved by TLAC members and then city councillors in the new year, the amendment could require a guilty customer to fork over up to \$100.

A first sampling of taxi-tracking data published by the city Monday gives an indication of a supply-and-demand issue, as more drivers were often found to be working the evening rush-hour and packing it in ahead of the late-night crowds, when demand and customer complaints tend to be at their peak.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



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Superbuff

Banned painkiller seized in bust

Alberta law-enforcement investigators have seized a banned painkiller nicknamed "Superbuff" from an Airdrie home they believe was being used to boost cocaine output as part of a dial-a-dope operation.

The announcement Monday came with a sharp warning from police, who noted that a similar circumstance in which PMMA was being added to ecstasy tablets led to the deaths of 19 people and hundreds of severe overdoses last year.

Sgt. Glenn Uchytel said the risks of recreational drug use are high.

"The side effects of this substance could be long-lasting — they could be life-altering," Uchytel said.

Superbuff, commonly known as Phenacetin, was banned from Canada in the 1970s after it was linked to cancer and kidney damage. But Uchytel said a supply of the drug has remained in North America and is used by cocaine dealers to expand the quantity of drugs they can deal. Phenacetin looks virtually identical to cocaine, he said.

Investigators seized 15 kilograms of Phenacetin, worth about \$40,000, in a raid on an Airdrie residence, as well as \$100,000 worth of actual cocaine, digital scales and empty kilogram cocaine wrappers.

Ryan Venn, a 29-year-old Airdrie man, is wanted on Alberta-wide warrants for three charges of breaching recognition.

Fellow Airdrie resident Jordan Schwebius, 30, and Calgary resident Sidney Nayel, 52, already face multiple charges in relation to the investigation.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Crist. Lotto winner opens wallet to cancer centre

Calgary's largest-ever lottery winner dropped by a city cancer centre Tuesday with a \$1.2-million cheque and a promise of more to come.

Tom Crist plans to donate every penny of his whopping \$40-million jackpot to charity, starting with a group near to his heart.

Crist's wife died at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in February 2012. Given the phenom-



enal care provided there, that's

where Crist first turned to give it all back, his son said.

"They were the best human beings alive," Dallas Crist told Metro. "It's a terrible time, but you have some angels looking over your head."

It's understood that Tom will create a trust fund in his family's name to scatter his winnings to deserving charities — including more to the Tom Baker.

Wherever the money ends up, Dallas is "proud as hell" of what his old man is doing.

"A lot of people would talk the talk, but he's actually going to walk the walk," he said.

Tom, the retired head of an electronics company, scored the win in a May draw. His Tuesday donation is being directed to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, the cancer centre's official partner. **BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO**

At this rate, a white Christmas is likely

Weather. Calgary seeing more than double the snow it usually does

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas — actually, it has for weeks.

Nearly 60 centimetres of the white stuff has blanketed Calgary since early November, and statistics from Environment Canada indicate the first two weeks of December saw precipitation levels not matched in more than a lifetime.

To date, the Calgary International Airport has reported a total accumulation of 57.6 centimetres, up from a typical average of 25.8 centimetres over the same period, according to meteorologist Bill McMurtry.

"Yes, it's been snowy," he said. "Right now, odds are it's a pretty good chance we're going to have a white Christmas, especially with any of the north-facing locations. There's quite a



A member of the Calgary snow crew clears city streets. The city has had double the normal snowfall amount this fall, and more is expected.

METRO FILE

bit of snow out there."

December alone has already seen about 30 centimetres of

snow, an amount not recorded over the first two weeks of the month in more than a century.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Road**

Not a prescription for love. Pharmacist guilty of trying to date customer

Alberta's privacy watchdog has found a pharmacist guilty of attempting to "establish a personal relationship" with a customer, in contravention of health-information laws.

Information and Privacy Commissioner Jill Clayton reported Tuesday the male pharmacist got the woman's contact information when she filled a prescription at an inner-city Shoppers Drug Mart.

The woman complained she was then twice called and friend requested on Facebook. The woman alleged

No refills

The incidents reportedly occurred between February and August 2012 and an investigation was subsequently launched.

there was no talk about prescriptions and it was "strictly for social purposes," according to the report.

"Health information systems are for health care, not matchmaking," Clayton said.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Bill Powers murder case

Suspect in death of sportscaster goes directly to trial

A suspect in the killing of a popular one-time Calgary sportscaster and his wife is going directly to trial.

Derek Puffer has agreed to skip a preliminary hearing on charges of second-degree murder in the deaths of Bill Powers and Donna Lee.

The couple was found stabbed to death in their Calgary home in July.

A trial date is expected to be set by mid-February

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Art selection juries: Is bigger necessarily better?



This piece of public art, titled *Family of Man*, was controversial when it was installed in 1967, said Jeremy Barreto, who noted people's tastes and perceptions of art can change greatly over time. **ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO**

Public art. Changes could lead to less innovative selections



ROBSON FLETCHER

robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Adding more community representatives to the juries that pick public art projects would be a welcome change, up to a point, according to people who have been involved in the process previously.

"There would be no problem, I think, adding an extra two people to the committee from the community," said Richard White, who has served on numerous selection juries as an artist representative.

Typically, Calgary's juries are composed of three artists, one community member and one city staff member, said Jeremy Barreto, who used

to sit on the Public Art Board that oversees the process.

Barreto said introducing more community members to juries, as some city councillors mused about this week, could work, but it would take some "careful consideration."

"We really need people on the jury who would understand the details of what it takes to make public art," he said, adding that large outdoor art pieces are essentially construction projects and jurors need to take technical matters into account, like weather-resistance and legal liabilities.

White said one consequence of increasing jury sizes would likely be less risk-taking in selected art.

"You'll get the pieces that people, maybe, have the least objection to," he said. "You won't always get the most avant-garde, or the most experimental, or the most edgy, which is not necessarily a good thing or a bad thing."

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Mom hopes to boost service-dog awareness



Stephanie Ostermann's son and his service dog Kiwi are seen in this undated photo. COURTESY STEPHANE OSTERMANN

'Complete misunderstanding.'
Salon worker apparently expressed fear of animal

Kiwi keeps Stephanie Ostermann's seven-year-old son on track. The four-year-old black labrador has no problem being tethered to the boy, who has Asperger Syndrome and tends to routinely become lost in his own thoughts.

Kiwi has been trained to pick up the boy's scent should he wander astray, and is great at listening to the many stories the youngster has to share.

But the mother says the public understanding about the value of service dogs to more than just the blind has been slow to catch on. Case in point, she says, was an incident at Diva Salon Spas, located in Calgary's Southcentre Mall, on Monday.

According to Ostermann, her daughter was in the salon getting a haircut and her son wandered in with his father and Kiwi alongside.

Three Diva staff members took issue with Kiwi's presence, according to the frustrated mother, even though he was wearing a bright-coloured vest identifying his special role. One of the workers even said she was afraid of the dog, Ostermann said. "I am not a yeller, but I got very specific," she said. "I said you cannot ask her to leave because you're afraid of her ... the solution, if you're afraid, is you move."

Alberta's Service Dogs Act states that any person with a disability accompanied by a qualified dog must be allowed access to any location where the general public is allowed.

Diva Salon Spas representatives have since apologized to Ostermann and her son, and pledged to help with future fundraising initiatives related to autism-spectrum disorders.

Arlene Spouse, Diva general manager, declined to discuss specifics of the incident but chalked it up to a "complete misunderstanding."

"We're taking this as an opportunity to improve our business for all our clients and our staff," she said.

Growing use

Maureen Jensen, of Autism Society Alberta, agreed the public perception of service dogs needs work. She said it's likely dogs will more often be paired with disabled Albertans in the future, noting some are even joining kids in their school classes.

Southcentre spokesperson Krista Moroz said the mall is actually a training centre for service dogs and the animals are in the mall year-round. She said mall staffers and security never question the dog's presence.

Ostermann said she welcomed Diva's response and hopes the incident can spur companies to include information about service dogs in their retail training procedures.

"For me, it's like how is this not common knowledge by now?" she said. "But we still deal with it ... running into people who don't understand. I'm tired of having the conversation over and over again."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Livery officer warns 'cherry-picking' cabbies

Calgary cabbies need to obey the law and stay logged onto broker-run dispatch systems when in service, the city's chief livery officer warned Tuesday.

Marc Halat's comments came after Metro first reported late Monday that the city's first batch of taxi-tracking data indicates drivers were not signed onto their respective dispatch system a third of the time they spent in service in July. The city's livery bylaw deems such

behaviour illegal.

Halat said educating drivers will be key, but he didn't rule out enforcement measures as well — operating off the dispatch can lead to a \$1,000 fine.

Halat chalked up 10-15 per cent of non-dispatch time to a driver running personal errands or stopping to grab a coffee, but said there is still an outstanding issue to address. He said it's likely 20 per cent of the time cabbies are "cherry-

picking" by only picking up customers flagging a ride from the roadside because they are guaranteed a fare.

"I happen to think they will listen to us," Halat said of the drivers. "They will take on our compliance initiatives and start moving some of the service onto outlying areas, where it is currently showing us the customers are not being served. The taxis are there."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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Councillor pitches simple solution to drainage problem

City hall. Flooding has been an ongoing issue in Sunnyside for years

Calgary is looking at making controversial flood gates in Sunnyside automated and remotely controllable, but one city councillor suggests the valves would never need adjusting and offer better flood protection with a simple plumbing trick.

Coun. Andre Chabot said the city could employ a basic "Venturi system" to manage the gates, which protect the community by preventing water from flowing in from the Bow River, but can also trap water inside the community during heavy rains.

Area residents have com-



Tim Kitchen, one of numerous Sunnyside and Hillhurst residents who told city council in July that improper operation of flood gates was causing flooding problems in their homes. METRO FILE

plained for years that the city's failure to manually open or close the gates quickly enough

has led to flooding in their homes.

Tim Kitchen, chairman of the Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Association, told council this summer that his home was inundated in 2006, 2007 and 2013.

"That's a direct result of operational challenges when it comes to operating those valves," he said at the time.

But Chabot said the Venturi approach — which he likened to draining a boat by pulling the plug while it's moving forward — would allow the gates to permanently perform both functions.

"You wouldn't have to open or close the gates," he said. "It wouldn't push water into Sunnyside; it would always be negative pressure drawing from it."

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Ben. Young crash victim suffers stroke

Already mourning the loss of a dedicated wife and mother, surviving Alberta family members involved in a horrific rollover earlier this month have been dealt another blow.

The Altwater family's youngest member, four-year-old Ben, has suffered a stroke, according to uncle Matthew Altwater.

Ben, five-year-old brother Alex, seven-year-old sister Rachelle, father Richard and mother Kunthea were travelling back to Coaldale from a weekend in the Rockies when the family van veered off course, flipped and plunged

into the Elk River off Highway 3, eight kilometres west of Ferme.

Witnesses rushed to the scene to pull the family from the vehicle, which was flooding with freezing water, but Kunthea was pronounced dead on the scene.

Richard, Rachelle and Alex were all treated and have since been released from hospital, but it's unclear if Ben has suffered permanent brain damage as a result of the stroke he suffered, Matthew said.

"The physiotherapists and doctor will continue to work

with him so that he can recover," Matthew said, noting Ben has recently been moved from Edmonton to the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary to be closer to family. "Until they are able to do an assessment of his injuries we will not know how much the stroke will affect him, or his recovery time."

RCMP believe Richard, who was driving the van, might have been attempting to pass another vehicle when he lost control in slushy road conditions.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO



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Reporter rejects Ford's 'apology'

Defamation.

Toronto mayor's statement not enough to halt lawsuit

Rob Ford's apology Tuesday for his televised comments about Daniel Dale failed to satisfy the Toronto Star reporter, who said he is going ahead with a defamation lawsuit against the Toronto mayor.

Ford read a statement in council saying he didn't intend to suggest Dale is a pedophile during a televised interview with Conrad Black.

"I never called Mr. Dale a pedophile," Ford said. "I have never used that word to describe Mr. Dale. I do not believe Mr. Dale is a pedophile nor did I intend to suggest that in my comments."

Ford said he apologizes if his "actual words" have caused Dale any harm or personal offence. The mayor called it "unfortunate" that a word he never said has been "ascribed" to him by the media.

Those remarks come a week after Ford initially said he stood by every word of the interview.

Dale served Ford last week with a libel notice, demanding the mayor retract all of his false claims about what happened during an incident near Ford's house in May 2012.

Hours after Ford read his statement, Dale issued one of his own on Twitter, saying Ford's apology didn't even come close to what he sought.

"In his 'apology,' the mayor didn't retract anything at all," Dale wrote. "Instead, he blamed the media for its reasonable interpretation of his words."

During the interview with Black, which aired Dec. 9 on VisionTV, Ford claimed that Dale was in his backyard, "taking pictures of little kids."

"I don't want to say that word, but you start thinking what this guy is all about," Ford said.

If pedophile wasn't "that word," then someone should ask Ford what word he was suggesting, Dale said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The reluctant apologist

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has been forced to apologize for various behaviours and off-colour or insulting remarks since the so-called crack video scandal broke in May.

Dec. 17: Reluctantly apologized for suggesting members of council were "corrupt." He initially withdrew his comments, but speaker Frances Nunziata said he needed to apologize.

Nov. 18: Apologizes for running into Coun. Pam McConnell and knocking her over during a council meeting to strip the mayor of most of his powers.

Nov. 14: Apologizes for crude remarks he made earlier that day in which he denied offering a former female staffer oral sex, saying he

had "more than enough to eat at home."

Nov. 8: Appears ashamed while delivering a statement in response to a video that surfaced of a rambling, enraged Ford in a profanity-laced tirade in which he threatens to kill someone.

Nov. 5: Apologizes after admitting he had indeed smoked crack cocaine, likely in one of his drunken stupors.

Nov. 3: Apologizes on his now-cancelled weekly radio show on Newstalk1010 for appearing in public while "hammered" and texting while driving.

May 27: Apologizes to reporters for calling them a "bunch of maggots" during his radio show. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mayor Rob Ford looks up to the press gallery as he concludes reading an apology to Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale in Toronto on Tuesday.

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Hollywood gets the cold shoulder

Newfoundland.

Philanthropist, actress attempt to deliver \$1M cheque as an incentive to stop the seal hunt

Actress Pamela Anderson and a co-creator of *The Simpsons* received a frosty reception in St. John's, N.L., on Tuesday as they tried to present a \$1-million incentive to help end the East Coast seal hunt.

Members of the Fish, Food and Allied Workers union, representing sealers, shouted questions at Anderson and Sam Simon during a chaotic news conference outside the office of the Canadian Sealers Association.

Simon offered a giant \$1-million cheque to the Canadian Sealers Association and said his intention is to respectfully encourage governments to legislate an end to seal licences while protecting aboriginal hunts.

In a letter dated Tuesday to Eldred Woodford, president of the Canadian Sealers Association, Simon said he's mak-



Hollywood actress Pamela Anderson and Sam Simon, producer of *The Simpsons*, talk to media outside the Canadian Sealers Association in St. John's, N.L., Tuesday. They attempted to deliver to the association a letter with a \$1-million cheque to help end the annual commercial seal hunt, but the office remained closed. PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ing the offer after the World Trade Organization upheld Europe's ban on imported seal products.

A dispute settlement panel said last month that aspects of the embargo undermine fair trade but can be justified on "public moral concerns" for animal welfare.

"With bans firmly in place

across Europe, Russia, the U.S., and other countries, the writing is on the wall," says the letter.

"The seal trade is finished. Leaders as diverse as President Obama and Vladimir Putin embrace this change, yet Canadian politicians remain too timid to initiate a buyout for fear of upsetting swing voters

in Eastern Canada."

The association's office was closed and no one from the association was present.

Ottawa and the provincial government announced they'll spend almost \$500,000 on a joint pilot project to offer seal meat at stores in Canada and overseas in the new year. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Rob Ford, royal baby and twerking. Google reveals year's top search terms

After dissecting the more than 40 billion queries submitted throughout 2013, Google Canada has declared Toronto's notorious Mayor Rob Ford as search term of the year.

While Facebook was the absolute top search of the year — as it has been for several years running — Ford topped Google's so-called trending list, representing the search terms that stood out most compared to previous web history.

Ford was followed by the late Glee actor Cory Monteith, who died of an overdose in July; Fast and Furious actor Paul Walker, who was killed in a car crash last month; murder victim Tim Bosma; and the Boston marathon.

Nelson Mandela, royal baby, North Korea, the Harlem Shake dance craze and Lac-Mégantic rounded out the Top 10 list.

One of the most interesting annual lists Google releases is a countdown of trending "what is" searches, which reveals what topics web searchers were



Miley Cyrus "twerking" onstage with Robin Thicke during the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards in New York City. NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES

keen to learn more about.

"What is twerking" topped the list, and the provocative dance was also the No. 1 "how to" search. Fracking was second on the "what is" list, followed by ricin, bbm, molly, bitcoin, Monsanto, Snapchat, EPO and DOMA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pfizer settlement

Generic Viagra available in 2017

Pfizer Inc. has reached a settlement with Teva Pharmaceuticals that allows the generic drug-maker to launch a copycat version of its popular erectile-dysfunction drug Viagra in 2017.

Pfizer said Tuesday that Teva will pay an undisclosed royalty for

a licence to produce a generic version of Viagra, one of Pfizer's bestselling drugs. Viagra generated about \$1.14 billion in U.S. sales last year and more than \$2 billion worldwide.

Pfizer's patent protecting Viagra from generic competition expires in April 2020, but Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. will be allowed to launch its generic version in the U.S. on Dec. 11, 2017.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal court

Group challenges Ottawa's refugee health-care cuts

A group of doctors says Ottawa didn't have the legal authority to cut back health-care coverage for refugee claimants.

Lawyers for Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care told a federal court Tuesday the move wasn't an act of

parliament, nor was it a regulation — which they argue makes it invalid.

The group is challenging the changes along with the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers and two claimants who say losing their coverage caused them severe psychological stress.

Until June 30, 2012, Ottawa covered medical costs for claimants until they were eligible for coverage or their claims were rejected. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Firefighters battle a major fire in downtown Kingston, Ont., Tuesday. Inset: A crane by a search-and-rescue helicopter from CFB Trenton. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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CALGARY CLINICS: FINAL DECEMBER DATES*

Days:	Time:	Location:
December 17 - 21	11:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Northgate A154, 495 36 Street NE
December 17 - 21	11:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Richmond Road Diagnostic Treatment Centre 1820 Richmond Road SW
December 17 - 21 December 27 & 28	11:00 AM - 6:30 PM	Brentwood Village Mall 302, 3630 Brentwood Road NW
December 17 - 21 December 27 & 28	11:00 AM - 6:30 PM	South Calgary Health Centre 31 Sunpark Plaza SE

***NOTE:** Influenza immunization will continue to be offered in Calgary, January through March 2014, at several dedicated clinic locations.

For more info, including dedicated clinic locations and schedules, visit www.albertahealthservices.ca or call **Health Link Alberta at 1.866.408.5465 (LINK)**.

Dramatic Ontario

Worker trapped.

Helicopter used to save crane operator stuck high above massive blaze that broke out at under-construction building

In a dramatic rescue Tuesday that drew a gasping crowd, a military helicopter airlifted a worker trapped on a crane above a massive fire in Kingston, Ont.

Police said the crane operator suffered only minor injuries after being stranded when the blaze broke out around 2:15 p.m. at an apartment building that was under construction.

John Ashie was working at his family's car dealership down the street when his father asked him about the black smoke that was rising above the neighbourhood.

The 22-year-old stepped onto the street just in time to see bright orange flames burst through the roof of the five-storey apartment complex.

"Thirty seconds went by and then the whole top was up in flames," Ashie said. "It seemed kind of out of control at that point, by the time the first fire truck got

there."

Not long after, those who had gathered to watch fire officials battle the blaze noticed a figure perched atop a construction crane at the burning apartment complex.

There were a few anxious moments as those on the ground watched the fire continue to grow.

"As the flames started to get bigger and bigger, it started to get pretty worrisome," said Ashie. "He must have been going through hell up there."

A Griffon helicopter deployed from CFB Trenton plucked the worker from the crane and took him to a waiting ambulance. Police said all the other construction workers at the site are believed to be accounted for.

Another worry for officials as fire crews fought the flames was a concern the blaze could spread to nearby buildings. Police went door-to-door advising residents to evacuate and at least one home near the burning building caught fire.

Utilities were shut down in the area to make it safe for those battling the fire.

Meanwhile, city buses were pressed into service to shuttle residents who lived within a few blocks of the blaze to an evacuation centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. politician drops cyberbullying complaint

A Nova Scotia politician who says she was bullied online after a topless photo of her was posted on Twitter has dropped the complaint she filed with the province's new cyberbullying investigations unit.

Lenore Zann, a member of the Nova Scotia legislature from the Truro area, says she's

satisfied that police and CyberScan have done all they can.

"The young man who started the whole thing rolling has been very good and he hasn't been in touch with me," she said in an interview.

Last week, the former actress complained she had been harassed on Twitter over two

weeks after she was sent a photo taken from the cable TV series *The L Word*, in which she appeared topless in 2008.

Zann said when the sender refused to delete the image, the online conversation soon included others who retweeted the picture and hurled vulgar insults at her. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Truro-Bible Hill MLA Lenore Zann has dropped her complaint to Nova Scotia's cyberbullying investigations unit. **ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS**



operator sits on top of a crane as the fire raged below. The man was later rescued

rescue in firestorm



A search-and-rescue helicopter team rescues a crane operator during a fire in downtown Kingston, Ont., Tuesday. **LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Murder trial. Knox declares innocence in email to Italian court

Amanda Knox declared her innocence in her roommate's 2007 murder in a highly unusual email Tuesday to the Italian court hearing the case against her. The former U.S. exchange student also said she was staying away from the trial out of fear of being wrongly convicted.

"I didn't kill. I didn't rape. I didn't rob. I didn't plot. I didn't instigate. I didn't kill Meredith," Knox wrote.

Presiding Judge Alessan-

dro Nencini read the five-page email written in Italian into the court record. He noted that the email, presented by Knox's lawyers before their closing arguments, was not a normal procedure in Italy. He said it highlighted Knox's absence and indicated it did not have the same legal standing as a declaration made in person.

Knox explained her absence was out of fear that she would be wrongly convicted. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Scotland Yard

No evidence found tying SAS to death of Princess Diana

London's police force said Tuesday there is "no credible evidence" that British special forces were involved in the deaths of Princess

Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and it will not reopen the investigation.

Scotland Yard has been looking into claims that the SAS had played a role.

The claims, widely reported in the British media, were made by an ex-SAS member identified only as Soldier N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin offers Ukraine \$15B bailout, cheap gas



Pro-European Union activists gather during a rally in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Passageway. Ukraine serves as a key conduit for Russian natural gas exports to Europe

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday opened

his wallet in the battle with the European Union over Ukraine's future, saying Moscow will buy \$15 billion worth of Ukrainian government bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas for its economically struggling neighbour.

The announcements

came after Putin held talks in Moscow with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who is facing massive protests at home for his decision to shelve a pact with the EU in favour of closer ties with Moscow. Russia's bailout package angered protesters, who immedi-

ately accused Yanukovych of selling out the country to the Kremlin.

Washington said the Kremlin agreements would not address concerns of the demonstrators in Kyiv, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel dismissed what she described as a "bidding competition" over Ukraine.

Putin's move came as Ukraine said it desperately needs to get at least \$10 billion in the coming months to avoid bankruptcy. The Fitch ratings agency has given Ukraine's bonds a B-minus rating, which puts them in "junk bond" territory.

Putin sought to calm protesters in Kyiv by saying he and Yanukovych didn't discuss the prospect of Ukraine joining a Moscow-dominated economic bloc they fear will pull their country closer into Russia's orbit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vote for Goodness

We've been searching for goodness. Here are 5 stories of genuinely good Canadians making a difference in their communities. Have a read. Then vote online for the story you'd like us to share in our next TV ad.

Ethan St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

Julia and Emma Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

George Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Coby North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

Sharon Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.



Vote at searchforgoodness.ca

Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

Still grieving, Lac-Mégantic residents work to rebuild their shattered town

Healing process.

A team of 11 grief counsellors stays busy providing individual and group therapy

Staring at the spot where her sister's bed once stood, all she could make out amid the ash was a nest of mattress springs gnarled by the intense heat.

Louise Boulet said the building that housed younger sister Marie-France's home had burned to the foundation shortly after a runaway train carrying volatile crude oil roared into her Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic.

The tanker wagons bounced off the tracks in July and erupted in a series of powerful explosions, razing part of Lac-Mégantic's core and killing 47 people.

Marie-France Boulet, 62, was among the victims,



Workers clear debris and decontaminate the soil earlier this month on the main street of Lac-Mégantic, Que. INSET: Smoke rises from railway cars in downtown Lac-Mégantic on July 6. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

though officials could not positively identify her remains.

With 2013 coming to a close, the Boulet family, like

so many in the region, are working to rebuild their lives

and their town following a disaster that grabbed the world's attention.

Since the July 6 crash, millions of dollars in government funding has been pledged for the massive environmental cleanup and reconstruction; blueprints have been sketched for a new downtown; and discussions are underway to see whether the tracks can eventually be re-routed outside of railway-dependent Lac-Mégantic. These changes are taking place amid an ongoing grieving process for the town of 6,000.

The Boulet clan, who held a funeral for Marie-France in September, is one of three families advised this month that the remains of their loved one could not be identified. To date, eight of the 47 victims have yet to be positively identified through scientific testing, though their deaths have been declared.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lac-Mégantic

Rail traffic set to resume

The tracks have been repaired and trains are set to roll through Lac-Mégantic on Wednesday, five months after a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed, exploded and killed 47 people. The railroad remains a vital component for local industry and the economy.

Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd., the company at the centre of the disaster, is expected to be sold in the coming weeks. Mayor Colette Roy-Laroche is concerned the next owner could resume cash-generating oil shipments through the town.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Facebook auto-play video ads could 'push people away'

Monetizing socializing. Ads silently auto-playing in news feeds a hit with investors, but some users do not like the idea

Investors are giving a thumbs-up to the idea of Facebook making hundreds of millions in new revenue from video advertisements, but some users argue that the social network is already too cluttered and has become more about commercialism than communing with friends.

Facebook said Tuesday that it's testing video advertisements that show up in its users' news feeds. As part of the test, Facebook said some of its users on Thursday will see a series of videos teasing Sum-



Your news feed is about to get more cluttered, with video ads. GETTY IMAGES

mit Entertainment's upcoming release of Divergent, a film based on a young adult novel with the same name, in their feeds.

While investors liked the idea, with Facebook's shares hitting an all-time high of \$55.18 US on the news Tuesday, the reaction from users has been less positive.

Ben Wachtel, a 23-year-old from Indianapolis and a Facebook user since high school, says he feels like he and his friends are using the social network less and less, as ads crowd out posts from real people.

"If they add videos, especially auto play ones, it's just going to push people away," said Wachtel.

Under the current plan, the advertisements automatically start playing without sound when they appear. Users can click on a video to view it with sound, or scroll past it if they're not interested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



#Topspot on Instagram

Will she be posting that pic of an aquatic animal display at Siam Ocean World in Siam Paragon shopping mall to Instagram? The luxury mall in the heart of Bangkok has claimed this year's crown as the world's most photographed location on Instagram in 2013, says the photo-sharing app. SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
94.25¢ (-0.21¢)

TSX
13,180.09 (-4.32)

OIL
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GOLD
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Natural gas: \$4.28 US (+\$0.02)
Dow Jones: 15,875.26 (-9.31)

Sequel with new writer

Larsson's widow calls new book 'tasteless, greedy'

The publisher of the best-selling *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* trilogy said it has hired an author to write a sequel to the series by Stieg Larsson, who died in 2004.

David Lagercrantz, the author of a biography of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the captain of Sweden's soccer team is set to write the novel.



Larsson's longtime partner, Eva Gabrielson, who has been in a legal dispute with Larsson's father and brother over the rights to the trilogy, told daily newspaper *Aftonbladet* that she finds it "tasteless" to try to make more money out of something that is already so successful. "I guess I think it's greedy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

By the time you read this, someone could be at least \$636 million richer.

That's the U.S. Mega Millions jackpot, which was drawn last night. If nobody wins, the next draw will be Friday, and the prize will approach \$1 billion, which is so ridiculous, it's hard to type.

Of course, Uncle Sam gets his half right off the top, but that will still be a cool half-billion after taxes.

Buried somewhere in the fine print are the odds, which are only about one in 259 million. But somebody has to win eventually, and it won't be you if you don't buy a ticket.

Canadians are eligible to buy a Mega Millions ticket, but only if they cross-border shop to do it. So when you're shopping for cheese or cheap gas, don't forget your one-in-259-million chance to join the one per cent over-



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

I wonder if the latest Mega Millionaire will follow the example of Calgarian Tom Crist, who won \$40 million in the Lotto Max recently, then decided to give it all away to charity to commemorate his wife, who died of lung cancer two years ago.

Tom says he's already financially secure thanks to his successful business and he doesn't need the money. But I imagine it's not easy to give away 40 million bucks, never mind 600 zillion.

Tom's story is particularly compelling because this is the season of giving and he sets the bar pretty high. Even the post-ghost Ebenezer Scrooge looks like a piker in comparison.

For years now, my wife has been dutifully buying lottery tickets while I scoff and snort in a nearby dark corner. Just as dutifully, she lists all the people she will help when she wins \$40 million or whatever. And as much as I ridicule the whole

process as pointless, it's not long before I start worrying how we're going to afford the villa on the Riviera while fighting cancer and paying off the mortgages of various friends and relatives.

And then, I remember:

1. It's her ticket. If I want the villa on the Riviera, I can buy my own ticket.

2. The odds of winning Lotto Max aren't quite one in 259 million, but I'm more likely to be hit by lightning, and how many times has that happened, touch wood? So what am I going on about?

3. Whatever happened to my generosity of spirit? It's pretty bad when I can't even imagine giving it away.

So thanks, Tom Crist. With the Spirit of Crist-mas present, you've inspired me to go out, buy a lottery ticket and think about giving it all away. If no one has claimed the Mega Millions prize after last night's draw, I may even head for the border and buy a ticket so I can imagine giving \$600 zillion away. What joy! Of course, there's no chance I'll actually win anything, is there?

So don't get too excited out there.

Clickbait



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

It's a familiar refrain: An app debuts, gets popular and then gets banned from either the iTunes store or the Google Play store for violating our mobile overlords' terms of service. In the case of Apple, banning an app from iTunes effectively kills it (unless you're willing to jailbreak your phone), but Android's relative openness allows for side-loading apps. So, for all you Android users out there, here are some of the best of the banned:



CONTRIBUTED

Falcon Pro (getfalcon.pro):

Arguably one of the best Twitter clients for Android, Falcon Pro vanished from the Play store last summer. To be fair, it wasn't Google's doing, but rather Twitter's. The company's user limit for third-party clients — which some believe is an attempt to corral everyone into the official app — kiboshed Falcon for new users. Fortunately, you can still install the app, and a little Googling will show you how to circumvent Twitter's limit.

CyanogenMod (cyanogenmod.org):

CyanogenMod is a user-created alternative to stock Android. It's the most popular Android remix on the

market, and allows users to get the latest version of the OS if their manufacturer hasn't released an update. An easy-to-use installer for CyanogenMod was booted from the Play store in November but can still be found online. Be warned, as Google claims installing CyanogenMod can void your warranty.

Amazon Appstore (amazon.com/getappstore):

Google may not always be evil, but they do hate competition. Intended for Kindle users, the Amazon Appstore contains many of the same apps as the official Play store, and also offers regular sales and freebies. Fortunately, the app is still available via Amazon's website.

Comments

@debbiepalms44: Twitter needs them too!

RE: The Vomit Face, The Dislike And The Nobody Cares: Facebook Buttons We'd 'Like', says Metro's Jessica Napier, published Dec. 17

@luxembourg5: OK, the facebook buttons sound great, but enough already about trashing Rob Ford~it gets boring.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Send us your comments: calgaryletters@metronews.ca

ZOOM

Carnivorous plant pic wins award

A picture of a meat-eating water plant has won this year's Olympus BioScapes International Digital Imaging Competition. Polish-born biologist Igor Siwanowicz's photo shows the inside of an open trap of aquatic carnivorous plant, the humped bladderwort (*utricularia gibba*), which digests micro invertebrates sucked into its trap. METRO

Q and A

An under-water hunter



IGOR SIWANOWICZ
Biologist, 37, from Krakow, Poland, based in Ashburn, Va.

How does it catch its prey? Antenna-like 'trigger hairs' guide an aquatic arthropod toward the trapdoor. Touching a hair causes the entrance to bulge inward. The plant's walls rapidly spring back to their initial position and the prey is sucked in within a millisecond!

It looks like a sort of bizarre, otherworldly vessel. Yes, like an alien treasure stash! Honestly, if I tried I couldn't have planned this image to turn out this way. This photograph stands as a salute to nature's ingenuity.



IGOR SIWANOWICZ/2013 OLYMPUS BIOSCAPES INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL IMAGING COMPETITION

Hollywood's in for the long con

American Hustle.

Bale's latest role has him playing a con artist who helps the FBI, but with this genre, it's a con that's been seen before



IN FOCUS

Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

"You're a con artist," wrote Karina Halle in *Sins & Needles*. "A liar. A thief. An unredeemable soul."

She might also have added to that colourful list really interesting movie character.

As despicable as flim flam artists may be, there is no denying they make good film subjects.

This weekend in *American Hustle*, Christian Bale plays Irving Rosenfeld, a con man forced to help the FBI ensnare a group of corrupt politicians in the ABSCAM sting operation.

Although *American Hustle* director David O. Russell says his film is a fictionalized account of events, the ABSCAM operation was headline news in the early 1980s and Hollywood took notice.

In 1982 director Louis Malle was making plans for a May start date on an ABSCAM film called *Moon Over Miami* starring Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. Belushi was to play Melvin Weinberg, based



Amy Adams and Christian Bale star in *American Hustle*, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

on the same man as Bale's character in *American Hustle*. The movie was scuttled following Belushi's death in March of that year.

That con man film never saw the light of day, but many others have.

Everyone knows *The Sting* and *The Grifters*, but lesser seen is David Mamet's *The Spanish Prisoner*, a complicated story starring Campbell Scott as Joe Ross, a man who invents a process "to control the world market." Concerned that he will not be

properly compensated for his work he contacts Jimmy Dell (Steve Martin), a wealthy businessman who offers to help. Little does Ross know that he has just stepped into a world of deception that will change his life.

Steve Martin's performance in *The Spanish Prisoner* was Oscar worthy, but it wasn't the first time he played a confidence man on film.

In the comedy *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* he starred opposite Michael Caine as

a scruffy con man trying to muscle in on some high end business on the French Riviera. Caine's suave grifter makes a bet with Martin. Whoever can con Soap Queen Janet Colgate (Glenne Headley) first will walk away with \$50,000.

The movie was written for Mick Jagger and David Bowie who were looking to do a project together after the success of their *Dancing in the Street* video.

The rock stars dropped out before cameras rolled —

Movie review



Stay classy Will Ferrell

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell

• • • •

Anchorman 2 may not be as classy (or as funny) as its 2004 progenitor but it's definitely more outrageous. For better or worse, star and co-writer Will Ferrell clearly had free rein with a foolish fable of the hapless broadcaster taking on the televised origin of 24-hour news. Ferrell and his star-studded cast will surely earn laughs — even if the sequel falls short of the original's cohesion.

STEVE GOW/METRO

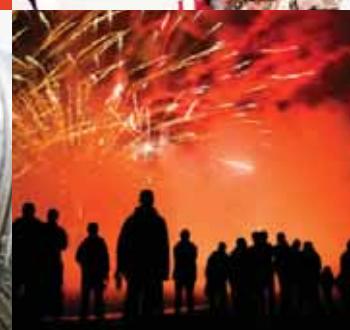
Bowie later said both were, "a bit tweezed that we lost out on a script that could have been reasonably good" — and replaced by Martin and Caine whose hilarious performances earned the movie a spot on Bravo's 100 Funniest Movies list.

Your week has 7 days.
Someday isn't one of them.

[taste life]



f / yellowtail



Must be legal drinking age. Watch your tail. Drink responsibly.

colour in your life



Dylan Sprouse

Disney star lays out the bare truth on his pictures

Now that former Disney child star Dylan Sprouse has had time to think about his nude photo leak, he wants everyone to calm down.

"The reason I'm making light of the situation is because I don't think what I did was wrong," the 21-year-old writes on his Tumblr page. "I was proud of my progress in the gym, thought I looked hot and wanted to share it."

He just didn't mean to share it with the actual recipient of the photos.

"The real problem here was not me sending my pictures to someone, but rather sending them to the wrong someone," Sprouse writes. "The real travesty is a misplaced trust, and while I am certainly to blame for it, it is a shame that my private life was somehow forcibly dragged into the public's perception of me."

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Lil Wayne isn't dead, but the Internet is ready if he is

THE WORD
MELINDA TAUB
scene@metronews.ca

At this point, Lil Wayne is basically a superhero, given how many times he's come back from the dead.

Yet another Lil Wayne death rumour was making the rounds on Facebook Tuesday. RIP Rapper Lil Wayne Found Dead, the video reads, before prompting the user to share it before viewing. Not to worry, though — the rapper is alive and well.

It's not clear where this latest rumour springs from (the Inquisitr speculates it could be a Facebook data harvesting scam, since you have to share the video to

view it), but it's far from the first time death rumours have swirled around the rapper. The most credible was this summer, when he was hospitalized for seizures and TMZ reported that he was on his deathbed. However, he recovered.

Why is Lil Wayne such a frequent target of death rumours? Maybe because his real health problems make them quasi-credible. The rapper is epileptic, which is what landed him in the hospital this summer.

"It got real bad because I got three (seizures) in a row, and on the third one my heart rate went down to, like, 30 per cent," he said in a radio interview with Power 106. "Basically, I could've died soon. That's why it was so serious."

I guess he can take some comfort in knowing that if (God forbid) anything ever does happen to him, the Internet has a bunch of In Memoriam videos all ready to go.

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Beyoncé. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Beyoncé's new album won't hit the Target

It seems not everyone enjoyed the surprise Beyoncé pulled off with her latest album, which debuted online last week with no prior notice. Retail chain Target, in fact, is refusing to carry the album, according to Billboard.

"At Target we focus on offering our guests a wide assortment of physical CDs, and when a new album is available digitally before it is available physically, it

impacts demand and sales projections," a spokeswoman for the chain says. "While there are many aspects that contribute to our approach and we have appreciated partnering with Beyoncé in the past, we are primarily focused on offering CDs that will be available in a physical format at the same time as all other formats. At this time, Target will not be carrying Beyoncé's new self-titled album Beyoncé."

Bateman urges Aniston to get married

Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux have been getting some well-intentioned pressure to just go ahead and tie the knot already from someone very close to them: good friend Jason Bateman.

"Jason has been one of the biggest cheerleaders for Justin to pull the trigger and marry Jen," a source tells Radar Online.

"Jen has had her own trepidations, too, after her marriage to Brad Pitt failed. But Jason loves both of them to pieces and as a longtime married father of two himself, he's a better example of how to achieve personal happiness in Hollywood."



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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
If all this white stuff make visions of mogul bumps dance in your head, here are a few exciting developments you should know about for the 2013-2014 ski season.



ON THE
MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca



Rosslan's Red Mountain

Just in time for the 2013/2014 ski season, Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, British Columbia has completed the largest expansion of any ski resort in North America in more than four decades. The development of Grey Mountain means an additional 1,000 acres of mostly intermediate terrain to the existing resort. Part of BC's renowned Powder Highway, Red is a two and a half hour drive from Spokane, Washington and three hours from Kelowna.

5

Perks for powder hounds



Cat tracks and snowshoes

Alberta's Fortress Mountain was closed as a ski resort in 2006. Over the last three years, KPOW (Kananaskis Powder) skiing at Fortress Mountain has brought a cat skiing operation back to sections of the mountain. Ski leaders will tour and teach anyone wanting to take advantage of the eight to 11 metres of annual snowfall. New this year, KPOW is partnering with White Mountain Adventures to offer snowshoeing at Fortress Mountain.



Brand new trails at Blue!

Ontario's premier ski resort, Blue Mountain, has added an additional 64 acres with its Orchard Expansion, which includes six new trails and the latest high-speed chairlift system to get you there. Their lift rate specials are on designated weeks from January to March, but for those spontaneous, flexible souls, Blue Mountain offers a last-minute Hot Deals club that includes the full gamut of accommodations.



Happy 75th Tremblant!

Quebec's Mont Tremblant is turning 75 this year. As part of the anniversary celebrations, the resort has invested \$5 million into The Westin Resort & Spa Tremblant and renovated a number of boutiques and restaurants in the resort's charming village. The mountain is featuring a long lineup of events throughout the winter including its traditional New Year's Eve party, the official 75th anniversary spring celebrations, the must-attend Caribou Cup, and a new Red Bull signature event that extends over four weekends from March 29 to April 19.



Ski — then stay at La Ferme

If you are planning to hit the slopes of Le Massif de Charlevoix this winter, avoid the 45 minute commute back and forth between Quebec City and stay at the Hôtel La Ferme. Constructed out of an old dairy farm in the middle of a field in Baie-Saint-Paul, this charming hotel is connecting by rail to the ski hills. From the hotel's lobby, skiers can walk into the train station, choose a take-out lunch, hop on the rail shuttle with their skis and get off right at the foot of trails.

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Welcome to another kind of Santa that has lots of gifts to give

Santa Barbara.
California dreamin' starts here with beaches and wine



JIM
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Romantic Spanish architecture. A craggy mountain range. Luscious wineries and incredible local food. And a fabulous beach that's bathed in sunshine almost year-round.

There's a reason that folks like Oprah Winfrey and the late Ronald Reagan set up homes in the area. There's only one highway in town, and traffic is manageable at the worst of times. But you've got southern California weather and southern California beaches and a stunning Spanish mission rising in the hills above town and one of California's prettiest ocean piers, all of it an easy two-hour drive from the freeway madness of Los Angeles.

Doing

The Santa Barbara mission on Laguna Street might be the prettiest of the Spanish missions that dot the state of California. The Santa Barbara courthouse has Moorish influences and fabulous views of the city's famed red-tiled roofs if you go up the tower. Relax, there's an elevator. There's great shopping up

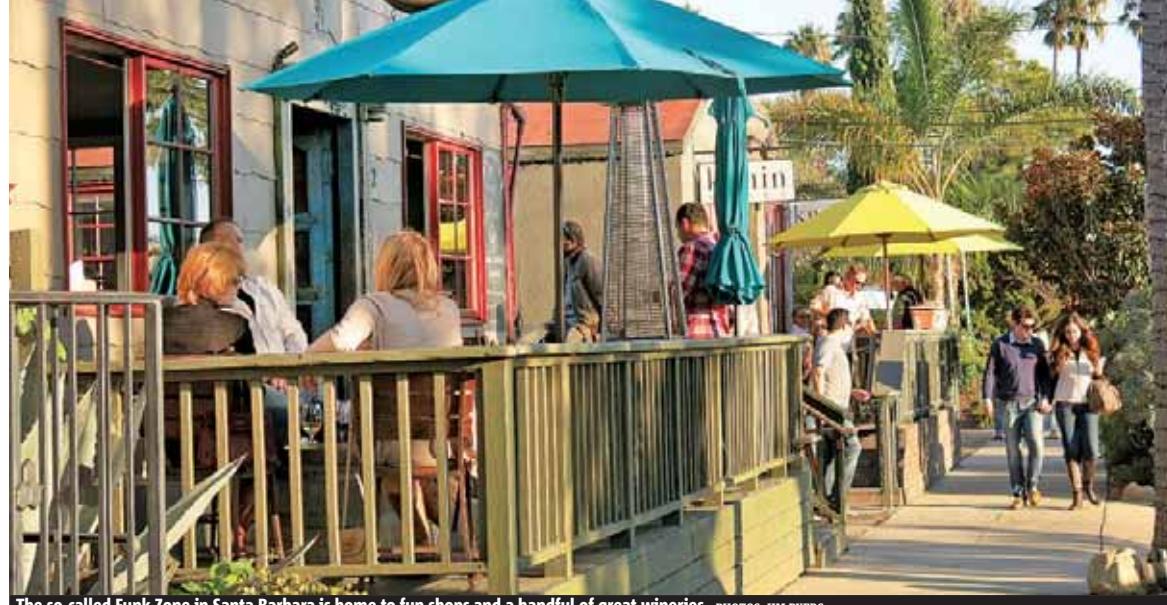
Drinking

One of the great features of Santa Barbara are the wine tasting rooms right downtown, which means you can leave your car at the hotel and sip and spit (yeah, right) to your heart's delight. This part of California is famous for its Pinot Noir (remember Miles in the movie *Sideways*?), as well as deeper reds like Syrah. There's also good Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Municipal Winemakers has a tasting room that looks like an industrial warehouse, while Santa Barbara Winery has cute wine gear and olive oil tasting and such treats as Chocolate Zinfandel sauce.

and down State Street and you can get a trolley to take you and up down the road for just 50 cents. So leave your car at your hotel. Wander down to Stearns Wharf and admire the ocean views, or take the Lil' Toot ferry boat on a short ride to the nearby boat harbour. DeeTours of Santa Barbara, run by Sandy Glendinning, offers great city or wine tours.

Sleeping

The Harbor View Inn is a casual but nicely designed property with good-sized rooms. It's directly across the street from the beach and from Stearns Wharf. Terrific wine-tasting rooms



The so-called Funk Zone in Santa Barbara is home to fun shops and a handful of great wineries. PHOTOS: JIM BYERS

and restaurants are also a block away. The Four Seasons Biltmore is a beautifully landscaped property on the beach, just south of downtown. They have more than 2,000 varieties of plants, everything from giant yellow hyacinths and birds of paradise to giant fig trees planted around winding paths with romantic gas lanterns. Expensive, but you'll impress the pants off your significant other.

Dining

Bouchon is an intimate restaurant on Victoria Street with stunning southern California-Mediterranean fare

such as sea bass with risotto and duck on a base of corn, fava beans, smoked bacon and squash. Great wait staff and a super friendly owner. Carlitos on State Street is a great Mexican place with a pretty patio that's just made for margarita tasting. Chuck's Waterfront Grill/The Endless Summer Bar-Café has fabulous views of the harbour and the mountains. They have a nice patio and also a casual bar upstairs. Napkins and menus feature the colourful logo from the classic surf movie *The Endless Summer* as director Bruce Brown lives in the area. Good fish tacos.



The harbour in Santa Barbara is one of the prettiest in California.

Flights

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New Mexico mixes up holiday celebrations

Festive twist. The state's cultural mix makes for some unique seasonal events

No matter when you visit New Mexico, the state's cultural mix is part of the appeal. Spanish colonial history, Native traditions and Anglo and Mexican influences are seen year-round in everything from architecture to food. But the Christmas season offers additional ways to experience this unique heritage.

Hallmarks of the holiday include the luminaria and farolito traditions. These candles, usually placed in paper bags weighted with sand, look like lanterns and are carried in nighttime processions or lined up along streets, driveways or rooftops to create a display. Luminaria can also refer to a bonfire, while the term farolito is more like

ly to be heard in Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico than in Albuquerque.

And while fir, balsam and pine perfume the air at Christmas in other parts of the country, here it's the scent of burning juniper and pinon.

Many places in New Mexico host annual events Christmas Eve and Christmas Day centred around the luminaria tradition. The main plazas of both Albuquerque and Santa Fe are decorated with thousands of luminarias.

Albuquerque offers walking tours of luminaria displays on Christmas Eve while Santa Fe hosts a procession called Las Posadas, which tells the story of Jesus. Spectators gather with candles in the city's historic plaza to watch the parade, which is followed by a Christmas at the Palace event at Santa Fe's Palace of the Governors. This event includes Hispanic, Anglo and

Also in Albuquerque
The River of Lights runs through Dec. 19 at the BioPark Zoo and Botanic Gardens, with a walk-through lighting display and entertainment.

Native traditions, from caroling to Native dances to an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus. Midnight Christmas Mass is held at the nearby Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

In Santa Fe's Canyon Road area, known for art galleries and studios, there's also a farolito walk on Christmas Eve, with businesses around the neighbourhood offering hot cider, hot chocolate and posole, a hearty soup that's traditional around Christmas.

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Chestnuts roasting on an open fire? They'd be happier in these truffles

Who doesn't love chocolate truffles? They are the essence of chocolate, and a sure-fire mood enhancer. Pop even one into your mouth and see if you don't get happy.

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the chestnuts and water. Bring to boil, then reduce heat to maintain a simmer, cover and cook until the chestnuts are very tender and all the water has been absorbed, about 30 minutes.

2. Add the milk and heat the mixture until it just comes to a simmer. Remove the pan from the heat, add the chocolate, then recover the pan. Let stand off the burner until the chocolate is melted, about 3 to 4 minutes.

3. Stir and transfer to a blender along with the espresso

Ingredients

- 5.2-oz pkg roasted and peeled chestnuts, medium chopped
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup low-fat evaporated milk
- 4 oz bittersweet chocolate, medium chopped
- 1 tsp instant espresso powder or 1 tbsp instant coffee
- Pinch of table salt
- 2 tbsp light corn syrup
- 2 tsp Tia Maria, Kahlua, Baileys, brandy or rum
- 1 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder

powder, salt, corn syrup and liquor. Blend until very smooth.

4. Transfer to a bowl, cover

Spiked Mocha Chestnut Truffles



This recipe makes 20 truffles. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

tightly with plastic wrap and chill until very firm, at least 3 hours. Form the mixture into small balls (about 2 tsp each)

and roll the balls in the cocoa powder until they are coated, shaking off the excess. Chill until ready to serve. Will keep,

refrigerated, for 2 weeks.
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**Holiday
happiness
guide**

If you need some inspiration to get ahead, look to the big man in red

Is Santa the employee of the century?

He checks his lists twice, he's got the nice thing down, what more can you ask for in a worker?

LEAH
RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

If you're planning on spending some of your holiday downtime on your job search, use the big man himself as someone to model your employable self after.

Not only has he been extremely successful in his career, but he consistently demonstrates a solid work ethic and embodies the qualities of an admirable worker.

Take a look at the top reasons Santa continues to excel

year after year and stands strong as a model employee:

He achieves the impossible

He might be a large man, but he still manages to squeeze down even the tightest of chimneys.

What's your version of impossible? Changing industries, going back to school, getting a position that's outside of your experience?

Have a goal, put your mind to it, and you too can fit in places you never thought possible.

He has a can-do attitude

The whole 'getting around the entire world in one night' detail has stumped the public for centuries — to the point where people use this as the sole reason to stop believing in Santa Claus.

I know, I know.

Think you have too much



Sure it looks like a lot to take on, but Santa's got a can-do attitude when it comes to all tasks, and so should you. iSTOCK

on your plate? Have people telling you you're under-qualified and not skilled enough for what you want to do? You can do anything you set your mind to — just ask Santa.

He asks for what he needs

Santa has one of the busiest jobs around. He has billions of people relying on him to gear up and deliver — literally.

He knows he can do it, but he also knows he might need a little help along the way.

Santa has no shame in ask-

ing for some milk and cookies to give him the energy he needs to power through.

If you feel like you don't have all the tools or training you need to most effectively do your job, speak up!

Your boss wants you to be productive — and if there's something you need help with in order to do just that, they should know about it.

He gives back

Santa never steals the spotlight, constantly paying recognition

to his hardworking elves and reindeer: two very important pieces in the holiday puzzle. Santa couldn't be Santa without a team and he knows that.

Santa also engages. Write him a letter and he will write back!

As we all know, so much of the job market nowadays is dependent on our social channels. Employers will look you up (or engage with you) on LinkedIn, Twitter and beyond. You want to make sure you're doing it right.

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He follows the dress code

He follows the dress code

- It's easy to get too comfortable at a place of employment, or reach that point where you've been there long enough that you start trying to get away with more and more.

- Santa has been doing the same job for what likely feels like forever, yet his outfit never disappoints. After hundreds of years delivering toys across the globe, he still shows up in a suit. Every. Single. Year.

- Think like Santa and you too can ho-ho-hold your head high as a model employee.

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CFL

Bellefeuille stays as Bombers' OC

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers are bringing back offensive co-ordinator Marcel Bellefeuille next season.

New Blue Bombers head coach Mike O'Shea announced Tuesday that Bellefeuille would return to run Winnipeg's offence. Bellefeuille finished off Winnipeg's disappointing 2013 season in that role after Gary Crowton was fired on Aug. 18 following a five-game losing streak.

While Winnipeg finished with a 3-15 record, the offence slowly began to take shape in the second half of the season behind quarterback Max Hall. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

UFC

Rousey backs St-Pierre's decision to leave

UFC champion (Rowdy) Ronda Rousey says Georges St-Pierre was right to leave mixed martial arts, if for no other reason than to preserve his health.

"We're not really doing nine to five or sitting down in a cubicle," the UFC's inaugural women's bantamweight champion said Tuesday. "If you fight for a living, you're fighting for your life every time you go in there. It's a stressful situation, if you think about it."

Rousey (7-0) noted that St-Pierre, with his controversial win last month over Johnny (Bigg Rigg) Hendricks at UFC 167, had set a UFC total fight time record with five hours 28 minutes 12 seconds in the Octagon. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Iggy now 2-0 against former teammates

NHL. Chara puts finishing touches on two setups from former Flames captain

With the emotions and hoopla of playing against his former team now a week and some 2,500 miles behind him, Jarome Iginla felt more relaxed facing Calgary again.

Iginla assisted on Zdeno Chara's two power-play goals, which were all the Boston Bruins needed in a 2-0 shutout of the Flames on Tuesday night.

David Krejci also had two assists and Tuukka Rask made 21 saves for the Bruins, who beat the Flames a week before in Iginla's first game as an opponent against Calgary. Iginla received a warm welcome back, but did not register a point in Boston's 2-1 win against the team he captained for nine of his 16 seasons with the Flames.

"Last week for myself, it felt a little bit different. This was more business," said Iginla, who has 13 assists in his first season with the Bruins. He was traded to Pittsburgh last March, then signed with Boston as a free agent in the off-season.

Boston was coming off a 6-2 loss at Vancouver on Saturday, when Rask was pulled after allowing four goals on 23 shots. Rask's teammates helped him recover from shaky performance by holding the Flames to 21 shots, including just four in the second period.

"We regrouped in the second and really never looked back after that," said Rask, who got his third shutout of the season.



Flames centre Matt Stajan beats former teammate Jarome Iginla to the puck on Tuesday night in Boston.

JARED WICKERHAM/GETTY IMAGES

On Tuesday

2	0
Bruins	Flames

- **Looking to the future.** Morgan Klimchuk signed an entry-level contract with the Calgary Flames on Tuesday, meaning the 2013 first-round draft pick will be with the team for at least three years.

Reto Berra had a much busier night at the other end and played well enough to keep Calgary close, stopping 29 shots.

"We played pretty good, especially in the first period. We had our chances," Berra said. "I think we fight. We try. We do everything. ... There's no other way than just keep going like that and the luck will come back on our side for sure."

The Bruins shut out Calgary for the third straight time in Boston, capitalizing on two costly high-sticking calls against Lance Bouma.

The first was a double-minor or 5:23 into the second period,

and Chara scored less than two minutes later on a slapshot to give Boston a 1-0 lead. Krejci settled a high pass from Iginla and set up Chara for a booming one-timer.

"That's tough on a goalie there," Iginla said. "As hard as he shoots it, it finds holes."

Bouma was called for another high stick in the third and the same combination scored again for the Bruins. This time it was Krejci passing to Iginla, whose shot from the left circle wound up between Chara's skates for an easy poke into the net with 16:41 left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dineen named Canadian women's coach



Hockey Canada announced Kevin Dineen as the new head coach of the national women's team in Calgary on Tuesday. **LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

With less than two months to go until the Sochi Olympics, Kevin Dineen will have to hit the ground running as the new head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team.

Dineen was named to the post Tuesday, just a few days after Dan Church's surprise resignation. Dineen was signed for the remainder of the season and will guide the defending champions at the Feb. 23 Winter Games.

"This has been a whirlwind few days, but when this opportunity presented itself

Up next

Canada will meet the U.S. in an exhibition game on Friday in Grand Forks, N.D.

I immediately jumped at it," Dineen said at a news conference.

It's the first international coaching job for Dineen, who served as head coach of the NHL's Florida Panthers for parts of three seasons until he was fired last month. He previ-

ously served as head coach of the AHL's Portland Pirates for six seasons (2005-11).

"We're very excited that Kevin will join the coaching staff of Canada's national women's team and bring his unique perspective to the dressing room," Hockey Canada chief operating officer Scott Smith said in a statement. "Kevin has had success in both the AHL and NHL, and we're looking forward to him being a part of the staff for the final push towards Sochi."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4
SPORTS

Kobe commands Lakers offence to win over Grizz



The Lakers' Kobe Bryant drives past the Grizzlies' Tony Allen during the second half of their game in Memphis Tuesday. The Lakers won 96-92.

DANNY JOHNSTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Bryant gets his team going early, ices Memphis comeback with late three-ball

Kobe Bryant scored 21 points in his sixth game of the season, and the Los Angeles Lakers closed out a four-game road trip with a 96-92 win over the Memphis Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

Pau Gasol added 21 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who were coming off a 114-100 loss at Atlanta on Monday night. Nick Young had 18 points, and Jodie Meeks finished with 13.

Zach Randolph had 18 points and a season-high 16 rebounds for Memphis. The Grizzlies played without Mike Conley, who sat out after bruising his left thigh in Sunday's loss to Minnesota.

The Grizzlies led 69-67 in the fourth quarter before the Lakers went on a 17-4 run.

On Tuesday

96 92

Lakers

Grizzlies

Bryant played 32 minutes, matching his most action since returning from his torn left Achilles' tendon. He was 9 for 18 from the field, both season highs, despite running the offence most of the night.

Randolph gave Memphis its last lead with the first bucket in the fourth quarter. The Lakers responded with their big run, and Young's 3-pointer made it 84-73 with 7:30 left.

The Grizzlies came back with eight straight, six by Jerryd Bayless. But the rally fizzled from there, and Bryant hit a 3-pointer from 28 feet with 2:39 left to put the Lakers up 91-85. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Luge. Canada names team tasked with ending drought

World Championship and World Cup medallist Alex Gough and two-time Olympian Sam Edney will lead a promising Canadian luge team into the Sochi Games with the goal of bringing home the country's first Olympic medal in the sport.

The Canadian Luge Association officially named seven athletes to the 2014 Olympic team Tuesday. Edney leads teenagers John Fennell and Mitchel Malyk into their first Games in men's singles. Tristan Walker and Justin Smith will represent Canada in doubles, while Gough will be joined by Kimberley McRae in women's



Alex Gough THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

singles. Arianne Jones and Jordan Smith will race off in Calgary on Wednesday and Thursday for the final women's spot. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Snowboarding

White expects to return on weekend

Shaun White's balky left ankle apparently isn't going to keep the two-time Olympic gold medallist out of this weekend's World Cup event in Colorado.

White posted a picture of a halfpipe on his Facebook page on Tuesday. The picture included a message that read, "I am in the building" as an introduction.

White tweaked the ankle during his first run in the halfpipe finals of an event in Breckenridge, Colo., on Saturday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	34	23	9	2	94	70	48
Montreal	36	21	12	3	91	76	45
Tampa Bay	34	20	11	3	93	82	43
Detroit	36	15	12	9	91	99	39
Toronto	36	17	16	3	99	105	37
Ottawa	35	14	15	6	99	113	34
Florida	35	13	17	5	81	110	31
Buffalo	34	8	23	3	59	98	19

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	35	24	10	1	108	75	49
Washington	34	18	13	3	107	102	39
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
Philadelphia	34	15	5	4	81	93	34
NY Rangers	34	16	17	1	76	91	33
New Jersey	34	13	15	6	78	85	32
Columbus	34	14	16	4	87	95	32
NY Islanders	35	9	19	7	85	121	25

Tuesday's results

Boston 2, Calgary 0
Buffalo 4, Winnipeg 2
Tampa Bay 3, NY Islanders 2 (SO)

Florida 3, Toronto 1
Anaheim 5, Detroit 2

Montreal 3, Phoenix 1
Philadelphia 5, Washington 2

Minnesota 3, Vancouver 2 (SO)

Colorado 6, Dallas 2

Montreal 4, St. Louis 2

Chicago 3, Nashville 1
Dallas 3, Colorado 2

Edmonton at Los Angeles

Monday's results

Winnipeg 3, Columbus 2

Pittsburgh 3, Toronto 1

Ottawa 3, St. Louis 2 (OT)

Colorado 6, Dallas 2

Wednesday's games

All Times Eastern

Ottawa at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at NY Rangers, 8 p.m.

Thursday's games

Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	37	25	7	5	138	102	55
St. Louis	33	22	10	4	114	80	48
Colorado	33	22	10	1	96	78	45
Minnesota	36	20	11	5	84	83	45
Dallas	33	16	12	5	95	101	37
Nashville	34	16	15	3	78	95	35
Winnipeg	36	15	16	5	95	106	35

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	36	24	7	5	116	91	53
San Jose	34	21	7	6	112	84	48
Los Angeles	34	22	8	4	94	68	48
Vancouver	36	20	10	6	100	86	46
Phoenix	33	18	10	5	105	103	41
Calgary	34	13	16	5	86	108	31
Edmonton	35	11	21	3	93	120	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.

Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games

Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.

Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.

NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.

Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	28	47
Kane, Chi	19	26	45
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	27	10	37
Tavares, NY1	13	24	37
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Backstrom, Wash	8	28	36
Steen, StL	22	13	35
Thornton, SJ	5	30	35
Seguin, Dal	18	15	33
Kunitz, Pgh	17	16	33
Sharp, Chi	16	17	33
Kessel, Tor	17	15	32
Ryan, Ott	16	16	32

Not including last night's games

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	4	.833	—
d-Miami	18	6	.750	2
Atlanta	13	12	.520	7 ^{1/2}
d-Boston	12	14	.462	9
Detroit	12	14	.462	9 ^{1/2}
Charlotte	11	14	.440	9 ^{1/2}
Washington	10	13	.435	9 ^{1/2}
Toronto	9	13	.409	10
Chicago	9	14	.391	10 ^{1/2}
Cleveland	9	15	.375	11
Brooklyn	9	15	.375	11
Orlando	8	17	.320	12 ^{1/2}
New York	7	17	.292	13
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	14
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

Tuesday's results

Portland 119, Cleveland 116

Charlotte 95, Sacramento 87

L.A. Lakers 96, Memphis 92

Oklahoma City 105, Denver 93

New Orleans at Golden State

Monday's results

Detroit 101, Indiana 96

Boston 101, Minnesota 97

Atlanta 114, L.A. Lakers 100

Miami 117, Utah 94

Washington 102, New York 101

Brooklyn 130, Philadelphia 94

Orlando 83, Chicago 82

L.A. Clippers 115, San Antonio 92

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GT model with Technology Package shown. Certain features available only on 2014 Mazda3 GS and GT models.



End the Soul searching with Kia



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. New looks, new platform, but the same ...

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

It has a lot of new in it, on it and under it, but unless you're really paying attention, you might not realize it.

On the surface, you have to wonder about the time and money spent to build the 2014 Kia Soul, but it's really no different than with brands such as Mini that spend millions on a new car that looks much the same as before. That's "the brand" after all.

The Mini has more history than the Soul, but the Soul is no less unique and there is a certain cachet about it. Only a handful of models have tried to match the Soul's artful shape since it arrived for the 2011 model year.

For the mid-cycle refresh, Kia's California and Korea-based design teams used the 2012 Track'ster concept show vehicle as a starting point. They did tone down that bit of zaniness (a two-door wagon doesn't cut it out in the real world), but a number of shape-shifting elements were passed along to the 2014 Soul. The Soul's overall packaging has also been upsized a bit. The distance between the front and rear wheels increases by about 2.5 centimetres while about 1.5 centimetres has been added to the width.

These changes, along with a slight body-height reduction, give the Soul a more planted appearance.

On the practical side, cargo space has been increased slightly (with the rear seats up or folded flat) and the liftgate opening is now six centimetres wider.

The added size comes from a new platform that's larger and considerably stiffer (by 29 per cent). Combined with a numerous suspension revisions, Kia claims the 2014 Soul is quieter and has an improved ride that performs more smoothly over bumps and undulations.

Also adding to the cabin's allure is a thoroughly revised and upgraded dashboard, control panel and seat coverings. Nearly all of the plasticity bits are now covered in/replaced with soft-touch materials, as are the door panels. The steering wheel resembles a game-console controller, but at least the controls are large enough to be activated by average-sized digits.

Both of the Soul's four-cylinder engine choices return for 2014, albeit in slightly revised form. The base 1.6-litre unit is rated at 130 horsepower and 118 pound-feet of torque (previously 138/123), while the optional 2.0-litre four-cylinder returns with the same 164 horsepower as before, but with a slight increase in torque. Kia says both powerplants make more torque in lower rev ranges for better around-town performance.

With an \$18,700 starting price (including destination charges), the base Soul LX covers the basics, but includes heated outside mirrors, six-speaker audio system and Bluetooth short-range wireless networking.

Along with the larger en-

2014 Kia Soul

• **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact wagon

• **Engines (hp).** 1.6-litre DOHC I4 (130); 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (164)

• **Transmissions.** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt. with 1.6; std. with 2.0)

• **Base price (incl. destination).** \$18,700

Design

In front, a revised "bulldog" nose and enlarged grille adds greater definition, while at the opposite end the Track'ster-inspired boomerang-shaped taillights appear to be floating inside the rear glass, as does the rear body panel built into the liftgate. The effect is simply brilliant.

Fuel economy

The 1.6 comes with a six-speed manual transmission or optional six-speed automatic, but the 2.0 is only available with the automatic. The 1.6 is rated at 6.5 l/100 km in the city and 8.6 on the highway with the manual gearbox (6.6/8.5 with the automatic).



The Kia Soul's new cabin has less plastic and a button laden steering wheel.

gine and standard air conditioning and automatic transmission, the mid-range EX adds keyless entry, cruise control, heated front seats and 17-inch alloy wheels (16-inch steel wheels are standard).

Atop the Soul trim trio, the SX has 18-inch wheels and power-folding mirrors, while the interior comes with dual-zone climate control, leather seat covers, push-button start, a chilled glove box and a rear-view camera.

The options list is truly extensive and covers off a navigation system with 20-centimetre touch-screen, power-sliding panoramic sunroof, 10-way power driver's seat and premium Infinity-brand sound package.

Taken in its entirety, the Soul, like the Mini Cooper, is set up to be a niche brand unto itself with a wide range of pricing and options and, of course, that unmistakable "Soul-ness."

Compare



1 Fiat 500L
Base price: \$21,700



2 Nissan Cube
Base price: \$19,100



3 Hyundai Veloster
Base price: \$21,000

5
DRIVE

A full-page promotional flyer for Sunridge Nissan's Boxing Month Event. The top features a red gift box with a green ribbon, the text 'YOUR FIRST 6 PAYMENTS ON US' in large red numbers, and the Nissan logo with the tagline 'Innovation that excites'. The main title 'DOORCRASHER SALE HAPPENING NOW' is in large, bold, yellow and red letters. Below it, a yellow banner says 'HUGE SAVINGS ON ALL 2013 MODELS! VISIT CLEAROUT.SUNRIDGENISSAN.COM TO SEE OUR ENTIRE 2013 INVENTORY! PLUS GET UP TO 6 MONTHS OF NO PAYMENTS! SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.' The flyer is divided into four sections: MURANO LE 2013, 2014 VERSA NOTE HATCHBACK, JUKE AWD 2013, and ROGUE AWD 2013. Each section includes a photo of the car, its MSRP, savings, and a special offer. The bottom section features 'Winter Service Specials' and a 'FIRST TIME BUYER PROGRAM' with a \$500 down payment offer. It also includes a 'WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SALESPERSON WHO SPEAKS PUNJABI & ENGLISH' section and the Kaizen Automotive Group logo.



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Tips

- **Manual.** Go by the octane recommendation in your owner's manual. If you only need 87-octane regular fuel, there's no need to use premium.
- **Location, location.** Be smart when fuel-shopping. You'll burn up a few cents difference if the cheaper station is far away, or there's a long line at the pumps.

JIL
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Just as the weather changes from summer to winter, so does gasoline. Stations are now selling winter gas, specially blended for the season.

"Winter gas can have a higher RVP, or Reid Vapor Pressure," says Wayne Moorehead, marketing manager for Canadian Tire Petroleum. "That is a measurement of the volatility of the fuel, and how subject it is to evaporation. In winter, you want a fuel that has higher volatility, because it's easier for the vehicle to start."

But there's more to it than that, and it comes down to government-mandated emissions standards. There are several places where gasoline vapours can enter the atmosphere: at the station when you're filling up, out of the filler neck if your gas cap isn't tight,

temperatures, the emissions standards allow for higher-RVP fuel to be sold in the winter.

al. Go by the octane recommendation in your manual. If you only need octane regular there's no need to use premium.

Location, location. Be when fuel-shopping. Turn up a few cents difference if the cheaper sta-

possibly out of the tailpipe, small amounts of

"A fuller tank has less area for condensation to take place, and having more fuel will spread out any water that is in there. People should also make sure the fuel cap fits properly, too. If you have a loose cap and it's not sealed properly, there's an opportunity for moisture to get in."

refineries to make RVP fuel for sale during the summer months. However, lower-RVP fuel is a different refining process. It's costlier to refine, and Moorehead says it's tougher to produce large quantities of fuel in winter. Since fuel naturally evaporates more slowly at cold temperatures, it's

Parts department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Small-sized, big power

It used to be that most portable power chargers used for starting vehicles with dead batteries were big and bulky and weighed a ton. That seems to be all in the past with the PowerAll power bank. This handy device holds enough juice to charge or start any 12-volt system using its own cable clamps, yet it's small enough (16 by 7.5- by 3.0 centimetres) to fit inside most glove boxes. The PowerAll's two USB computer ports can simultaneously charge up your cell phone plus other electronic devices and its built-in flashlight/flashlight signal light offers significant illumination for up to 120 hours on a full charge. Check out the PowerAll at thepowerall.com and purchase the product for US \$100 at amazon.com.



VW vans for kids

If you're looking for something to keep your small fry amused, check out this cool pop-up play tent that resembles a scaled-down 1965 Volkswagen Camper-van. Suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities, the 166 by 53 by 76-centimetre tent is waterproof, constructed of fire-retardant materials and offers UV protection. Access is through a zippered entrance, while the mesh windows let in fresh air and can be easily covered up if necessary for protection from the elements. When not in use, the tent stores in a neat carrying pack that looks like an actual-size VW wheel-and-tire combo. The Campervan tent is available in blue or red and is available online and at retail outlets such as Bed Bath & Beyond for \$70 in Canadian funds.



Collect wrecked rides

Model making is a passion for many car nuts, with most hobbyists assembling scale replicas of those pristine classics you'll find at most typical weeknight show-and-shine events. However, model maker John Findra, who is the proprietor of Classic Wrecks, prefers to portray his favourites as if they had been discovered in someone's barn or field. Findra begins with basic model kits that are available in most hobby stores. He then finishes each one so that it appears in an abandoned, rusted-out and generally neglected condition. The results are amazing, as you will discover after visiting his Web site that displays classic Chevrolets, Mustangs, Dodges, Pontiacs, etc. There are even a few distressed import cars. Prices run in the US

\$85-\$100 range for each of these unusual pieces of automotive art. Shop the lot at etsy.com/shop/classicwrecks.com.



A box of wooden goodies

"Woody's" began as wood-formed wagon bodies attached to truck frames that were used primarily for commercial duty. Eventually they evolved into option packages using both wood and metal attached to wagons, convertibles and sedans. Now you can learn all there is to know about these highly collectable vehicles with Featherston's Treasure Box of Classic Woodys. This 400-page tome covers the history of these vehicles in words and pictures dating back to the turn on the 20th century. Also included is a special box with woody-themed postcards, toys, postage stamps, licence plate tags and decals. The box itself weighs about nine kilograms and can be reconfigured as a small garage to house scale-model woodys. The large US \$500 price is reasonable since only 500 copies are planned. Visit: df-woodybook.com.



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Three ways to beat the winter driving blues

Fun, diversity and technology. Enjoy the shaky ride and the skill involved to control in harsh conditions while appreciating the tires that help you do so



**AUTO
PILOT**
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Seems to me it's just as crucial to prepare your mood for winter driving as it is to prepare your vehicle for winter driving.

This occurred to me last weekend as I drove through a winter storm, or at least what the weather media elite here in Central Canada now call a winter storm. Could be wrong, but didn't we once just call this type of thing "winter"? Anyways, here are three ways you might adjust your mood, to be the boss of winter driving, and not the other way around...

Realize the Fun Factor

It's not a wintery mess,
it's an opportunity to get



Joe Hallett of the British rubber development firm, ARTIS, holds the concept tire commissioned by Canadian Tire. It's sidewall turns blue at 7 degrees C, when it's time to get into the winter tire mood. PHOTO: CANADIAN TIRE

the vehicle a little "loose" on the snow. And that's fun. Well, fun until you hit something hard, and a lot of people in uniforms come calling. Sliding around an empty, snow-covered parking lot, used to be the time-honoured way teenage boys learned car control. Put on some Twisted Sister and give it a try. Even if you don't have a run-off safety zone or empty parking lot at your disposal, just revel in the extra brain energy it takes to drive on slippery surfaces. It's engaging, entertaining and probably at least as effective in staving off dementia as doing crossword puzzles.

Appreciate the Diversity of Driving Talent

Nothing separates the good driver from the duffer like a snowy road. The speed differential between a person who knows how to drive in the snow, with a vehicle equipped for such, versus a person who has no clue, with a vehicle with even less of clue, is really quite amazing. If you're the former, and following the latter and can't pass, it can be one of the most exasperating driving scenarios you'll every encounter.

It's the driving equivalent of having your recess time cut into, because your teacher won't release the whole class until everybody has their coats on, and some of your classmates are still confounded by the physics of zippers. Instead of seething and showing off your excellent vocabulary of four-letter words, why not just revel in the

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diversity, and let patience and the pride of your superior driving abilities be your predominant state of mind.

Leverage the Technology

Winter tire technology has shot up lately. They used to be quite a bit better in the cold, slush and snow than all-seasons. Now they're crazy better. They

take a winter weakling of a vehicle and turn it into a minor superhero of a winter vehicle, and driving a superhero is definitely mood-altering. And we'd like to give props to Canadian Tire, for being the first to commission the development of an all-season tire that actually changes colour at 7 degrees Celsius the point at which they

start to struggle, by becoming less pliable and less able to grip the road. It's your signal that it's time to swap them for those super capable winters.

Interestingly, the technology is not unlike a mood ring. When the temperature drops, you mood is susceptible to drop too. But it doesn't have to — mind bend it the other way.

The image is a full-page advertisement for Nissan's Boxing Month event. At the top left is the Nissan logo with the tagline 'Innovation that excites'. To the right is a large red gift box with a green ribbon. The main title 'MY NISSAN BOXING MONTH Event' is displayed in red and black text. Below the title, a large red number '6' is followed by the text 'PAYMENTS ON US'. A subtext 'On top of current in-market offers on select models' is shown. The middle section features three Nissan vehicles: a silver SL AWD Rogue, a blue Platinum Pathfinder, and a red Crew Cab SL Titan. Below each vehicle is a caption: 'SL AWD model shown*', 'Platinum model shown*', and 'Crew Cab SL model shown*'. The bottom section contains three promotional tables for 2013 models. The first table for the 2013 Rogue offers 0% APR for up to 84 months, starting from \$25,848*. The second table for the 2014 Pathfinder offers \$192 bi-weekly at 2.9% APR for 84 months, starting from \$31,678*. The third table for the 2013 Titan offers \$13,000 in cash discounts. At the bottom, an introduction to the 2014 Nissan Rogue is shown with a starting price of \$25,248*. The advertisement is framed by a border of white snowflakes.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH



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WINNER OF THE BEST NEW
CAR OVER \$21,000)



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ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

2014 MAZDA3 - WINNER OF THE BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(UNDER \$21,000)



zoom-zoom



AppRadio 3 delivers the goods

In-dash system.

Pioneer's latest offers versatile and advanced apps to improve your ride

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Ever see someone staring intently downwards, possibly smiling, while driving? The motorist in question isn't inspecting or grinning at the appearance of their crotch. They're using their smartphone — which is, of course, dangerous, naughty and likely to result in a pricey texty-driving ticket.

For those not in the new-car market, numerous mobile electronics manufacturers are offering aftermarket solutions to stay entertained, informed and in touch on the go — without the risk of earning yourself a distraction-related ticket from the local constabulary.

One such manufacturer

is Pioneer. Their latest AppRadio 3 in-dash system aims to deliver integrated smartphone functionality, including developer-driven apps, to the dashboard of virtually any ride.

Like your phone, the AppRadio 3 touch-screen unit has a few hard buttons for tactile maneuvering and a big, vivid touch screen for everything else.

Out of the box, AppRadio 3 delivers the latest Bluetooth integration for hands-free calling and audio streaming, a built in radio tuner, available CD, iPod integration and more.

All functions are manipulated on the big, bright touch screen via the same slide, swipe, pinch and flick gestures you're familiar with from your smartphone.

I could stream internet radio stations, place, accept and dismiss phone calls, and easily browse my phone's music playlist, while said phone was gobbling up delicious electrons recharging in the glovebox.



Pioneer's AppRadio 3 in-dash system. CONTRIBUTED

Got an iPhone? Once Bluetooth pairing is complete, drivers benefit from integrated voice-command functionality, as Siri is migrated into the AppRadio 3 unit. Voice command is supported on Android devices too.

For the most appealing part of the AppRadio 3 unit for

advanced users, install the free AppRadio program on your smartphone, and a list of available AppRadio apps populates every time you access it.

Available apps at the time of writing included various web browsers, media players, navigation interfaces, internet radio tuners and the like.

These apps link between your data-equipped smartphone and the AppRadio 3 screen for a fully integrated experience.

I enjoyed the in-car browser app for its ability to play back media on the large screen and use the vehicle's stereo system when I wanted to show my friends some funny internet

videos. Other available apps even deliver performance meters and data displays for your vehicle's engine, right on the screen. That's only the beginning — as the available apps expand in number and genre, the system will only get better.

Your writer left the AppRadio 3 impressed, mostly, with the access to the voice-command system from his smartphone and its ability to provide calling, texting and other functions in a hands-free, eyes-free manner without learning a new voice interface.

Complaints? Some of the apps cost a buck or two, some even more than that, and selection is currently limited. Initial setup and familiarity with the AppRadio 3's operation can be difficult or frustrating for less electronics-savvy users like your writer.

End of the day, this unit is a worthy way to access full Bluetooth functionality, hands-free voice-command, and get a great big, easy-to-use screen into your ride from about \$430.

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Selling price is \$30,111 on a new 2014 Acura ILX (Model DE1F3E). Selling price includes \$1,995 freight and PDI, excise tax (\$100), new tire surcharge (\$20) and AMVIC fee (\$6.25). License, insurance, registration and taxes (including GST) are extra. *Limited time lease offer based on a new 2014 Acura ILX (Model DE1F3E) available through Acura Financial Services, on approved credit. Representative lease example: 1.9% lease rate for 48 months. Bi-weekly payment is \$128 (includes \$1,995 freight and PDI) with \$3,608 down payment. 20,000 km allowance/year; charge of \$0.15/km for excess kilometres. Total lease obligation is \$16,920. Offer includes excise tax (\$100), new tire surcharge (\$20), AMVIC fee (\$6.25), PPSA (\$13) and pre-tax amount (\$952.38) of Holiday Bonus Cash. License, insurance, registration, options and applicable fees, duties and taxes are extra (including GST). †\$1,000 Holiday Bonus available on all 2014 Acura ILX models. Credit will be deducted from the negotiated selling price after taxes (for cash purchases) and can also be combined with lease and finance offers. Some terms/conditions apply. Model shown for illustration purposes only. Offers end January 2, 2014, are subject to change or cancellation without notice and are only valid for Alberta residents at Alberta Acura retailers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. See your Calgary Acura retailer for full details.

AMVIC LICENSEES

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will get exactly what you deserve today: no more and no less. If the rewards are good don't doubt that you have earned them; and if the rewards are not so good then aim to do better next time.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You will have to do something that makes you unpopular but if you don't do it now you may have to do something twice as bad later on.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Money matters may be causing you concern but other aspects indicate you can still have lots of fun. Besides, if you keep too tight a hold of the purse strings now you may have to spend more later.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

The important thing today is that you don't over-extend yourself physically, financially or emotionally. Know your limits and stay within them.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Cosmic activity in positive areas of your chart urges you to open up and let friends and family know what you need in terms of both material wellbeing and emotional support.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

People will be demanding of you today and there may come a time when you realize you are being taken for a ride. The fact is they could have done most of these things for themselves if they wanted to. Make them wish they had.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

At some stage today your frustration is likely to bubble over and you will say or do something that you later regret. But, even so, it's good to remind those around you that your patience is finite.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You won't get things all your own way today, especially on the home front where partners and loved ones are anything but reasonable. The good news is this is only a passing phase.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

There will be a setback concerning a money matter or business deal and you won't be happy about it. But is it worth getting worked up about?

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

It seems you are stuck with a decision you took a while back and would do anything to get yourself out of now. That might just be possible today but the planets warn it won't come cheap.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Delays of one sort or another are likely over the next 24 hours but while it may be frustrating it could also inspire you to try a different route.

Pisces

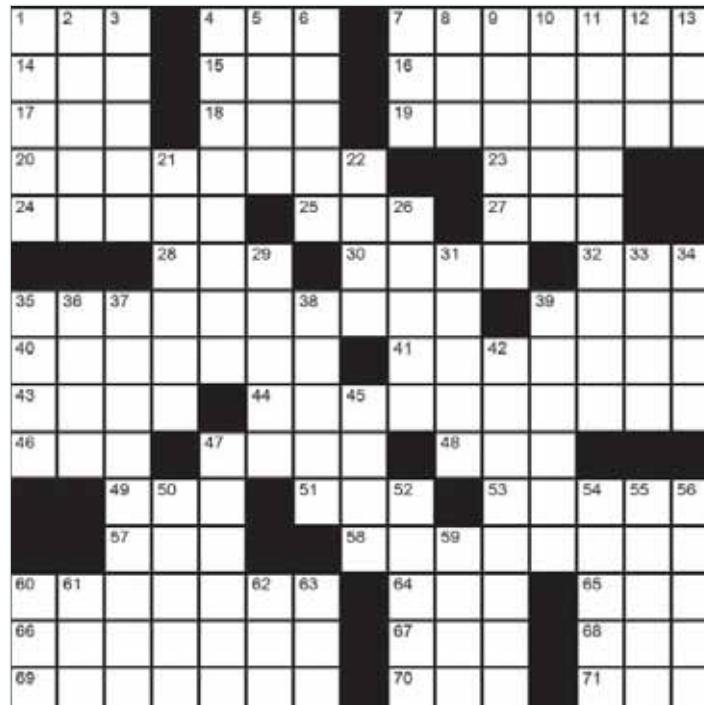
Feb. 20 - March 20

You seem to have lost your way a little and the planets suggest you swallow your pride and ask someone who knows what they are doing to help you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- 15, 30 or 50, e.g.
4. Opening
7. Truck
14. Airport sched. word
15. British singer Rita
16. By mistake: 2 wds.
17. __-diant (Self-styled)
18. Martini ingredient
19. Canadian comic book superheroine, __ of the Northern Lights
20. Saskatchewan city east of Saskatoon
23. Driver's proof, e.g.
24. Improvise
25. Sushi tuna
27. Tattoo artist's supply
28. __ guy walks into..."
30. Botanist Mr. Gray's
32. Sports org.
35. Michael J. Fox, e.g.: 2 wds.
39. Earth's inner
40. Where Zagreb is the capital
41. Acquiesces
43. Er, I don't know-ish
44. Winter resort accommodations: 2 wds.
46. Literary fairy queen
47. Molt
48. Fashionable

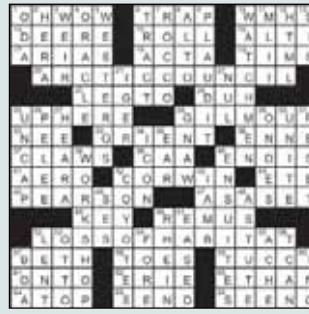


monogram
49. Freelancer's encl.
51. Six, in Italy
53. Entire
57. No Scrubs group
58. Canadian hockey brothers Phil or Tony
60. Mercy Mercy Me (The __) by Marvin Gaye

64. Playboy Mansion's man, for short
65. Dorothy, to pals
66. Encounter: 2 wds.
67. Goof
68. Bug kind
69. Alberta village, home of the World's Largest Pyrogy
70. Actor Mr. Knight, et al.

71. Uncle on Seinfeld
Down
1. Alexander's nickname
2. Peacock's feeling
3. Czech composer, Rudolf __
4. 1960s dancer's outfit part: 2 wds.
5. Botanical 'coat'
6. Zoo attraction
7. Wine: French
8. Compass'point
9. Steve McQueen war movie, __ for Heroes (1962)
10. Dick __, legendary Montreal Canadiens

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	4	1	8	7	6	3
3	4	8	6	2	7	0	1	5
1	7	6	9	3	5	8	2	4
6	3	5	1	4	9	2	8	7
2	8	9	7	6	3	4	5	1
4	1	7	5	8	2	3	9	6
5	2	1	8	7	4	6	3	9
7	9	3	2	5	6	1	4	8
8	6	4	3	9	1	5	7	2

6		3		
4	5		9	
	8		7	4
4		7	5	8
1		9	3	2
9		6	8	1
2	3		9	4
	8		2	7
1			1	7

Weather

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAX: -12°
MIN: -13°



MAX: -8°
MIN: -19°



MAX: -3°
MIN: -13°



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METEOROLOGIST

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

coach
11. De-cypher: 2 wds.
12. Mr. Chaney
13. Period
21. France/Spain: Bay of __
22. "Take __!"
26. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir __ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
29. TLC's *Breaking __*
31. Like a shoe's support
33. Guitar bar
34. Not as much
35. Pond guck
36. __ S. Rombauer (*Joy of Cooking* author)
37. Yukon: __ Territorial Park
38. "For goodness __!"
39. Orchestra instruments
42. Left-overs
45. Obsession, __ fixe
47. Canadian cafe chain, __ Cup
50. __ the Family
52. The Kid __
Tonite by Loverboy
54. Word up for
56. __ 6/49
59. "...and a partridge in a __ tree."
60. Work unit
61. __-de-sac
62. Ronny & The Daytonas hit
63. Far, quaintly

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